

Message Text

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S/S-O:JETHYDEN

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

S E C R E T STATE 026828

NODIS

FOLLOWING REPEAT PARIS 3002 SENT ACTION SECSTATE 31 JAN 78

QUOTE S E C R E T PARIS 03002

NODIS

E.O.11652: XGDS-3
TAGS: MNUC PK FR
SUBJ: FRENCH REPROCESSING PLANT FOR PAKISTAN

REF: STATE 019295

1. FOREIGN MINISTRY SEC GEN SOUTOU TOOK ME ASIDE AT A
LUNCHEON TODAY TO BRIEFLY EXPRESS HIS CONCERN ABOUT THE
RECENT "NEWS" REGARDING THE GERMANY-BRAZIL DEAL WHEREIN,
IN SOUTOU'S TERMS, URENCO HAD AGREED (WITH US APPROVAL)
THAT BRAZIL WOULD BE PERMITTED TO STOCKPILE PLUTONIUM
UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS. HE WENT ON TO SAY THAT SUCH AN
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ARRANGEMENT, IF IT IS TRUE, MAKES IT MUCH MORE
DIFFICULT FOR THE FRENCH TO PUT A FIRM STOP TO THE
PAKISTAN REPROCESSING PLANT. HE SAID THAT JACOMET'S
IMMINENT TRIP TO PAKISTAN WAS BEING POSTPONED UNTIL
THE FRENCH HAD THE FULL SPECIFICS ON THE NEW
ARRANGEMENT RELATING TO BRAZIL AND THAT ITS EFFECTS ON
THE FRENCH-PAKISTAN PLANT HAVE BEEN EVALUATED. IN

MENTIONING THE DUTCH DECISION ON THE URENCO EXPANSION, SOUTOU NOTED THAT HE UNDERSTOOD THAT THE USG HAD GIVEN ITS AGREEMENT TO ALL ASPECTS OF THE ARRANGEMENT, INCLUDING THE STOCKPILING OF PLUTONIUM IN BRAZIL UNDER IAEA SAFEGUARDS.

2. I TOLD SOUTOU I WAS NOT AWARE THAT THE US HAD AGREED TO THE SPECIFICS OF THE ARRANGEMENT INVOLVING URENCO, GERMANY AND BRAZIL, BUT THAT I WOULD ASK WASHINGTON FOR ITS UNDERSTANDING OF THE SPECIFICS AND OF ANY COMMENTS THE US HAS OFFERED ON THIS. SOUTOU INDICATED HE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING SUCH INFORMATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

3. JACOMET'S CONVERSATIONS IN WASHINGTON COVERED IN REFTTEL DO NOT PRESENT A SPECIFIC GOF OBJECTIVE, IN MY VIEW, FOR HIS INTENDED VISIT TO PAKISTAN. I ASSUME THAT THE DUTCH GOVERNMENT'S RECENT APPROVAL OF THE EXPANSION OF THE URENCO PLANT, WHICH WAS IN THE NEWS HERE DURING MID-JANUARY, MAY HAVE RECENTLY BEEN BROUGHT TO SOUTOU'S ATTENTION TOGETHER WITH THE OBSERVATION THAT THIS PERMITTED THE GERMAN-BRAZILIAN CONTRACT TO CONTINUE ON SCHEDULE AND IT WAS, THEREFORE, MORE DIFFICULT TO SUSTAIN THE FRENCH "FREEZE" ON THE REPROCESSING PLANT FOR PAKISTAN. WHILE I CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT GISCARD HAS MADE A FIRM DECISION NOT TO PROCEED FURTHER
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WITH THE CURRENT REPROCESSING PLANT FOR PAKISTAN, NT IS PROBABLE THAT THE PRESSURES ARE MOUNTING WITHIN THE GOF AGAINST THIS DECISION AND THAT EACH OPPORTUNITY, MOWEVER REMOTE, TO SHOW THE DISADVANTAGES TO THE FRENCH OF NOT PROCEEDING WITH THE CONTRACT WILL BE EXPLOITED BY THOSE WITHIN THE GOF OPPOSED TO GISCARD'S DECISION.

4. I WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE DEPARTMENT'S EARLY CABLED RESPONSE ON SPECIFICS OF THE RECENT DECISION TO PROCEED WITH THE EXPANSION OF THE URENCO FACILITY AND SPECIFICALLY THE DETAILS OF THE FURTHER COMMITMENTS, IF ANY, MADE FOR BRAZIL. I ALSO REQUEST ANY COMMENTS ON THIS ARRANGEMENT THAT I MAY PASS TO SOUTOU IN THIS REGARD. I BELIEVE THAT SOUTOU WILL RAISE THIS WITH AMBASSADOR SMITH DURING HIS VISIT HERE.
HARTMAN

UNQUOTE VANCE

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